Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* It was fixed once. Afterwards it was extended.

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* May I know the number of applications received?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* House Loans.....17698. Amount sanctioned Rs. 1,25,000. Agricultural Loans....14043. Amount sanctioned....Rs. 1,75,000.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* What was the last date for the receipt of applications?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* I think it was Vrischigam. I am not certain.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* Are we to understand that the Special Relief Officer was appointed to give a sort of relief to the officer concerned *(Laughter).*

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* When does the Government expect that the work will be closed.

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* By the close of the year.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Has the Government issued instructions to that effect?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Government have issued definite orders that no further extensions will be given.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When did the first period expire?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* By the end of Makaram.

COMMANDEERING OF PADDY—SUGGESTIONS FOR—ARTICLE IN THE COCHIN ARGUS

281. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to State.—

(*a*) whether the Government has noted in column 3 on page 3 of "The Cochin Argus" dated 17th January 1942, under the caption "Paddy to be commandeered"—(News and Notes), a Press statement issued by Mr. K. R. Viswambharan, Leader of the Progressive Party in this Council;

(*b*) if so whether the Government has taken any steps to stock all the paddy available from sources pointed out in that Press statement;

(*c*) the probable quantity of paddy that could be commandeered?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(*c*) The information is being gathered.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* In answer to sub-division (*b*) it is stated "the matter is under consideration". May I know at what stage the matter stands now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* With regard to the purchase of paddy the Government have no idea at present to buy paddy. They had an idea to purchase rice from the Merchants. 40,000 bags of rice were purchased. The question of buying paddy was never raised.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What exactly was the substance of this article?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice because I have not read it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether the Government have got any definite information with regard to the quantity that is in Mattancheri and Trichur?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes. Every week and almost every day we get information.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether there is any circular that to export rice or paddy to British India or Travancore permission ought to be obtained?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* There is no ban.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* They can transport goods as they like?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* This port serves a good deal of the West Coast and South India.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to see that the paddy of the estates which the Government are managing are not sent outside?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* They can take action so far as their estates are concerned. But that question has not been actively considered. But the estates

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cannot indefinitely keep all their paddy. They have to meet their demands. Unless the Government decide to buy the paddy the Government cannot ask anybody to keep their paddy indefinitely.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)* : Do the Government think that there will be plenty of paddy and rice after Karkadagam ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : This article appeared on the 17th of January 1942. What was the idea of the Government at that time ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : They had no idea to go and buy paddy and they thought that it will be quite sufficient if they buy rice that is available in Mattancheri and 40,000 bags have been purchased. The rice is being sold to retail merchants. Government consider that that arrangement will be enough. But a conference is sitting in Madras today and tomorrow on this particular question. We are awaiting the results of that. A great deal may depend upon the deleberations there and the conclusions that may be arrived at. Cochin is not separate from the Malabar District.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : When did the Government begin to purchase rice ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : About a month ago. The Government will commandeer only if there is not sufficient stock in Mattancheri. If there is sufficient stock there is no need for Government to interfere and go on commandeering.

Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)* : What was the stock then ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : I have not got the exact figure.

Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)* : How much rice was purchased by the Government ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : 40,000.

Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)* : Is it from all over the State ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Only from Mattancheri.

Mr. Ismail Haji Essa Sait *(Mattancheri)* : Was any paddy purchased from Mattancheri ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : No.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)* : Are there restrictions in British India with regard to the import of paddy into Cochin State ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Absolutely no restriction.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : What is the approximate quantity of rice that we may require for one month ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : We want about one and a half lakhs of bags a month.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)* : Is there any restriction to import paddy from Travancore ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : No.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)* : Whether the Government are aware that the Madras Government have allocated the surplus paddy from Tanjore to Malabar and Coimbatore Districts ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : There was a notification. All these points will be considered in today's and tomorrow's regional conference. The other thing was only a forecast.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)* : Is the Government aware that there was no sale of rice in the Chittur market for four days last week owing to the Magistrate insisting on selling seven measures a rupee.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : Government have no information.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam)*: Will the Government be pleased to note that the merchants in Chittur are not in a position to sell rice at 7 *edangalies* a rupee. The poor people have been starved for four days, and only yesterday merchants began to sell rice. These merchants approached the Tahsildar and the Magistrate asked them just to be lenient, to shut their eyes to their selling below 7 *edangalies*.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The Government will note the point and make immediate enquiries.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Have Government imported rice from anywhere ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Government have not imported yet.

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Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Will the Government be pleased to open rice depots in Chittur Taluk also?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It will be considered.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* What is being done with the quantity of rice purchased by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* They are sold to retail merchants.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the margin added on with the price per bag by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. Ismail Haji Easa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Is it a fact that four annas is added on to the price of every bag?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know the places where these Depots have been opened?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Ernakulam, Trippunittura, South Chittur, Chalakkudi, Cranganur and Irinjalakkuda.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Have not the Government passed orders to sell rice with such and such a margin?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Considering the situation in the Chittur Taluk which is called the grannery of the State, do not the Government think it desirable to commandeer all the paddy grown in the State?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That question does not arise at all. The complaint is that the price per bag is low.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* It is a place where paddy is grown more than in any other place in the State. There, the price must be low. Is it not because the paddy is exported to other places that the price is very high?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Government do not agree with it.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is the Government selling at a profit?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

EMPLOYMENT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES AS PEONS AND MASAPADIES—REVENUE DEPARTMENT

282. മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ:

താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ദയവുചെയ്തു മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

(എ) റവന്യു വകുപ്പിൽ ശിപായി, വില്ലേജുമാസപ്പടി എന്നീ താഴ്ന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആകെ എത്രയുണ്ടു്;

(ബി) അതിൽ പുലയർ, പടന്നർ, വേട്ടുവർ, പറയർ എന്നിവർ എത്ര?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. രാമൻമേനോൻ:

(എ) ര വ ഒ.

(ബി) പുലയർ— ര, പടന്നർ, വേട്ടുവർ പറയർ—ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ: പടന്നർ, വേട്ടുവർ, പറയർ എന്നിവരിൽ നിന്നും അപേക്ഷകരുണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. രാമൻമേനോൻ: ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടാകണം.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ: പുതിയ നിയമനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ഇവർക്കു മുൻഗണന കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. രാമൻമേനോൻ: ആലോചിക്കാം.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Revenue Department had not been instructed by the Government to adhere to the principle of communal representation in making appointments to this inferior service?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യുണ്ണി: പടന്നർ, വേട്ടുവർ, പറയർ എന്നീ ഗ്രൂപ്പുകളിൽപ്പെട്ട വരുടെ സംഖ്യ എത്രയാണു്? അതു ഒരു പ്രാമാണ്യമുള്ള ഗ്രൂപ്പാണൊ എന്നറിയുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണു് ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്.

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